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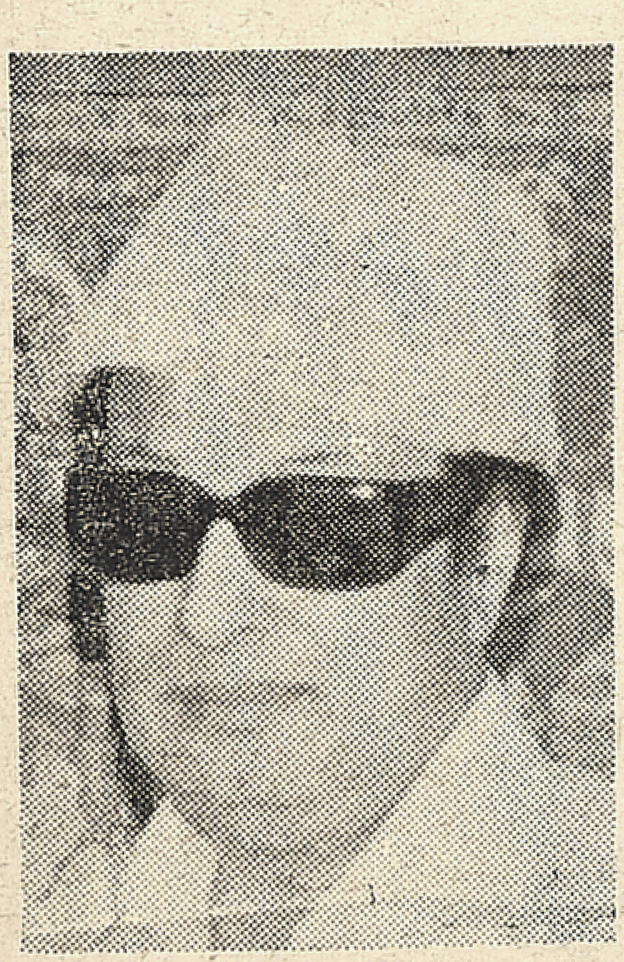
## Why Did The South Dissent From The North?

By N. MURUGESA MUDALIAR

The voting pattern in the South in the recent Parliamentary, elections has baffled political commentators and indeed has caused concern in the political parties which did not fare well although the all-India tally might be gratifying. That this debacle in the south has been due to a north-south polarisation must be dismissed at the outset as the ruling Congress Party has had as much influence in the north as the south by reason of its financial resources as well as its control over the official



M. G. Ramachandran

machinery. The opposing Janata party's appeal and ideology must be equally valid in the south as the north.

### STATE LEVEL ALLIES

The first point to be remembered is that this was Parliamentary elections and not State elections. The allies of the main malcontents viz, Congress and Janata, were in the South mainly state parties and not all-India parties, the except CPI and CPM.

Secondly, the Janata Party came into existence itself very shortly before the elections and its mission was not fully made known to the electorates in the South till Mr Jagjivan Ram resigned from the cabinet and

M. Karunanidhi

made known that his Congress for Democracy would join forces with the Janata Party.

Thirdly, the Jan Sangh which was the most powerful ally of the Janata Party had almost a total influence in the north than in the south which was strengthened, contrary to expectations by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's repeated and violent attacks on the Jan Sangh.

### YOUTH KEPT ALOOF

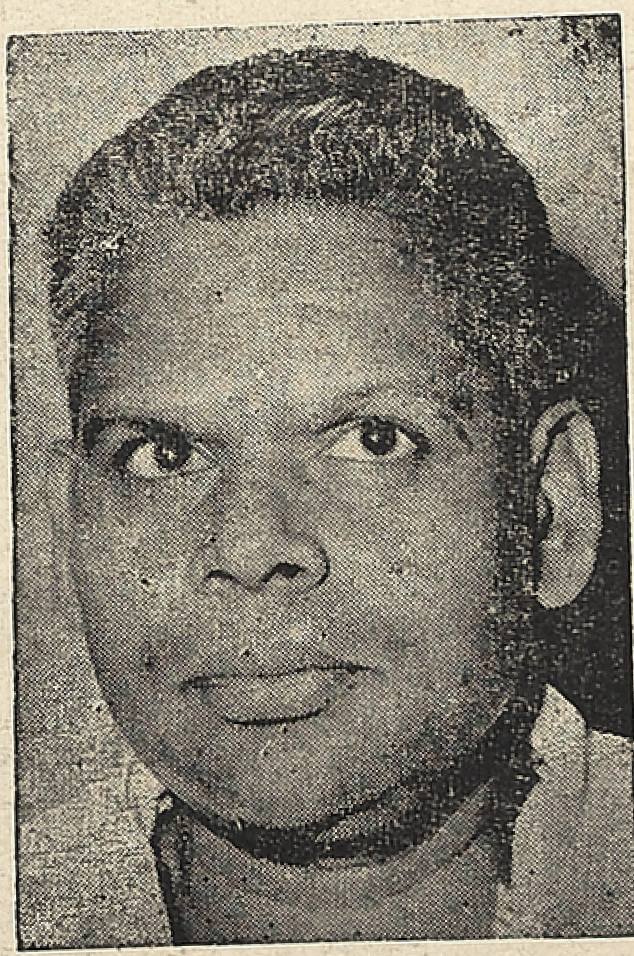
Fourthly, the causes for defeat or success of the main malcontents were influenced by the character or the exiguous importance of the state parties which went in alliance.

Fifthly, although it is alleged that the results were falsified by rigging and play of money alleged, the most potent fact overlooked by political commentators is that in the south the youth practically kept aloof from electoral politics (excepting the Youth Congress Party) proving that youth force was more powerful than money and support of official apparatus.

Apart from these identifiable main factors there was a concatenation of circumstances which made the result of the elections different from even modest and cautious expectations. It was anticipated, speaking only for Tamil Nadu, that Janata would win and with it the D. M. K. and the Congress, if at all successful, would score only a narrow margin in its favour.

### DMK'S FAILURE

The late birth of the Janata Party did not make the Party's impact in the countryside. Even in the metropolis the intelligentsia had some mental reservations remembering Mr. Morarji Desai's previous stand in respect of the introduction of Hindi and his unsympathetic stances as Finance Minister towards Tamil Nadu in respect of Subsidy scheme and for prohibition. In spite of these, the D. M. K. Party incontinently, immediately and unreservedly made known its



G. K. Moopanar

P. Ramachandran

full support to Janata. Later the joining of the Congress for Democracy started by Mr. Jagjivan Ram whose sympathy for the DMK as a dynamic and professed champion for social justice for the backward classes was well known and not new, cemented the electoral alliance which should have made it formidable. The warmth and admiration of Mr. Jaiprakash Narayan for the DMK for many welfare measures was not new or opportunistic and it was known earlier than the just and cautious recognition of men like J. B. Kripalani or Mr. Ashok Mehta. All of them practically discounted a great deal the seriousness of the Sarkaria Commission's investigations (not into the DMK party as such) but into the alleged corruption of some of the party's ministers as politically motivated. Even Mrs Gandhi did not underscore these corruption charges but only expressed doubt about the party's professions that it was not sepratist. In one speech (not in Tamilnadu) she was said to have declared that the DMK was anti-Brahmin, although it is well known that Brahmin-Non-Brahmin cross-currents have practically disappeared and the political name itself is a misnomer. The DMK leader him-

(Contd. on page 7)

**THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA**

I want to see God face to face. God I know is Truth. For *me* the only certain means of knowing God is Non-violence-*ahimsa*-Love.

ASOKA SCENTED BETEL NUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY April 24, 1977

## Charan's Threat

The Janata Party finds it difficult to seek constitutional solutions to the various problems.

Union Home Minister Charan Singh's "advice" to the nine Congress Chief Ministers to seek dissolution of their Assemblies and face a fresh poll is both undemocratic and unconstitutional.

The Congress Working Committee is correct in making the charge that Mr. Charan Singh's move is "politically motivated" to influence the Presidential election.

The centre has already started a destablisation process in the States. Defections have been encouraged on a big scale. But Mr Charan Singh's new move only shows that no more defections are possible and Congressmen are putting up a united front.

Mr. Charan Singh's bait that if the Chief Ministers oblige, they would be allowed to continue and the elections in their States held under their auspices is cheap and really unbecoming of a responsible Home Minister of the biggest democracy in the world.

The Home Minister was asked at a press conference whether the centre would resign if the Congress came back to power in the nine States. He didn't have the confidence to say 'yes'. He just brushed aside the question as hypothetical.

The Janata leaders will do well to remember that the Southern States had voted overwhelmingly against them and the "absurd situation" which would result if Mr. Charan Singh's argumement is taken to its local conclusion.

### VARNASI LOCO WORKS LAY STRESS ON

# INDIGENISATION

Indigenous development has always received highest priority in the Railways The Diesel Locomotive Works were established in Varanasi in 1961 with a view to produce indigenously diesel-electric locomotives which would otherwise have had to be imported. To begin with, most of the components were imported and the initial lot of locomotives were merely assembled. The challenges of indigenisation of over 3000 mechanical and electrical components was soon taken up and more and more components manufactured in the country have been used on the D. L. W. locomotives. It is worth mentioning that while the indigenous content of the locomotive has steadily gone up, no compromise with the quality has been made.

D. L W. has its own organisation for indigenous development. To expedite Indigenous development, D. L. W. has prepared detailed drawings and specifications for most of the imported components particularly keeping in view indigenous availability of raw material and technology. Wide publicity is given to items which are imported by D. L. W. by means of direct contact with suppliers, circulation of pamphlets, organising seminars and participation in exhibition etc. Entrepreneurs with requisite facilities were supplied with drawings and specification free of cost. In other words, all types of assistance is provided to entrepr eneurs for expediting indigenous development of imported components.

In order to give greater fillip to the import substitution programme, apart from participating in a number of exhibitions, a mobile exhibition was organised displaying the imported components, scarce components in short supply to indicate the extent of imports to the largest section of the entrepreneurs. This mobile coach went around all the major industrial towns of India and covered practically all the states. As a result, a large number of entrepreneurs have shown interest to undertake deovelopment of imported components.

This is apparent from the fact that the national indigenous content has increased from 2 percent in 1963-64 and 17 percent in 1964 65 to about 90 percent at present for all types of Dissel Locomotives manufactured in DLW. During the last fifteen months, D.L.W. has been able to indigenise 43 diesel loco components and thereby saved foreign exchange worth Rs. four crores for DLW and Railways.

Indigenous sources have been developed for brake valves, stainless steel fabrication, heat resistance casting, electrical components and some precision machine components.

Import substitution activity is not confined to indigenisation of diesel loco components alone. D.L,W. already produced diesel generating sets of 1400 KW capacity equipped with special type of control gear for Madras Atomic Power Stotion. Hith rto, such sets in this range were completely imported.

Another mark in D. L. W's efforts towards import substitution has been the development of 1350 H. P. shunting locomotives required for the yards of Steel Mills. These shunters have been designed, developed and manufactured through the joint efforts of the Research, Designs and Standards Organisation of Railways and the D. L. W.

The items that remain to be indiganised are mostly hard-core items which require sophisticated technology and heavy investments. Every effort is being made to indigenise these items also so as to reach the ultimate goal of complete self-reliance.

It is hoped that with a better understanding and more experieece, the progress towards import substitution of components and development of indigenous know-how will receive full impetus and that the Diesel Locomotive Works will be able to soon manufrcture a locomotive which will be truly "SWADESHI".

## My Fair Ladies

London detective noticed lately that besides valuables various cosmetics and creams were also disappearing from burgled flats. At first baffled, Scotland Yard officers soon found more and more representatives of the fair sex among the thieves, and even "all-female" gangs. London crime reached a record high last year, said a Scotland Yard spokesmon, with 106,945 flats burgled, or 9 per cent more than in 1975.

## Gromyko's Visit

The USSR Foreign Minister Anderi Gromyko is visiting India during the last week of this month. This will be the first official visit of a high Soviet dignitary to India after the new Government has been formed at the Centre, after the sixth Indian general elections.

At a time when many questions of paramount importance are left unsolved or on the way to be solved, the role to be played jointly by these two great countries in maintaining stability as well as to make detente an irreversible process, need not be stressed.

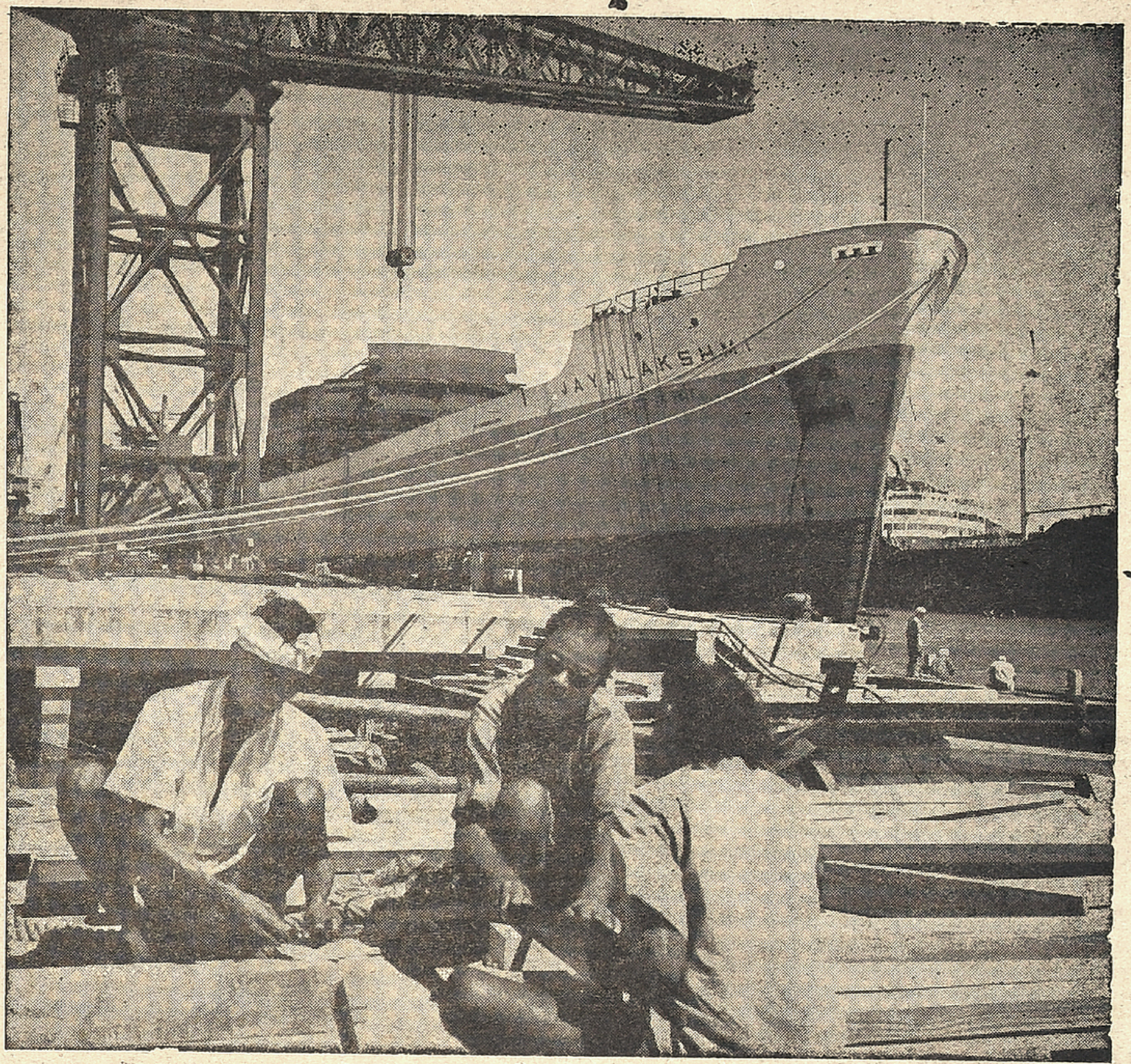
The visit to India of the doyen of Soviet diplomacy, who has behind him nearly four decades of uninterrupted service of his country in the foreign field, is of great significe. With a keen sense of humour and his conversations abounding in allusions to literature and art, Andrei Gromyko surprised the West, when as a young and relatively little known diplomat, he was appointed at the age of 34, as the Soviet ambassador to such a key capital as Washington, in the midst of a war.

That was way back in 1943. Gromyko not only justified his posting, but took on more difficult assignments as working out the most important documents of our times, the United Nations Charter. He has been the USSR Foreign Minister since 1957.

## Monster ?

While Renato Vallanzasca kept to petty thieving, he managed to steer clear of the police. But when he kidnapped a wealthy Italian Businessman's 16-year-old heiress, he was nabbed. In spite of his hostage's testimony to the contrary, newspapers luridly played up her adventures in the newspapers were rapped over the knuckles by the kidnapper himself. Asked by a reporter whether he felt he was a monster, Vallanzasoa said: "You made me into one. You need monsters on the front pages because the public craves that sort of thing—and you know how to provide it." When another reporter asked whether he didn't look upon himself as a social victim, he said : "Don't be stupid...I'm no victim. I like money, that's all."

# COASTAL SHIPPING



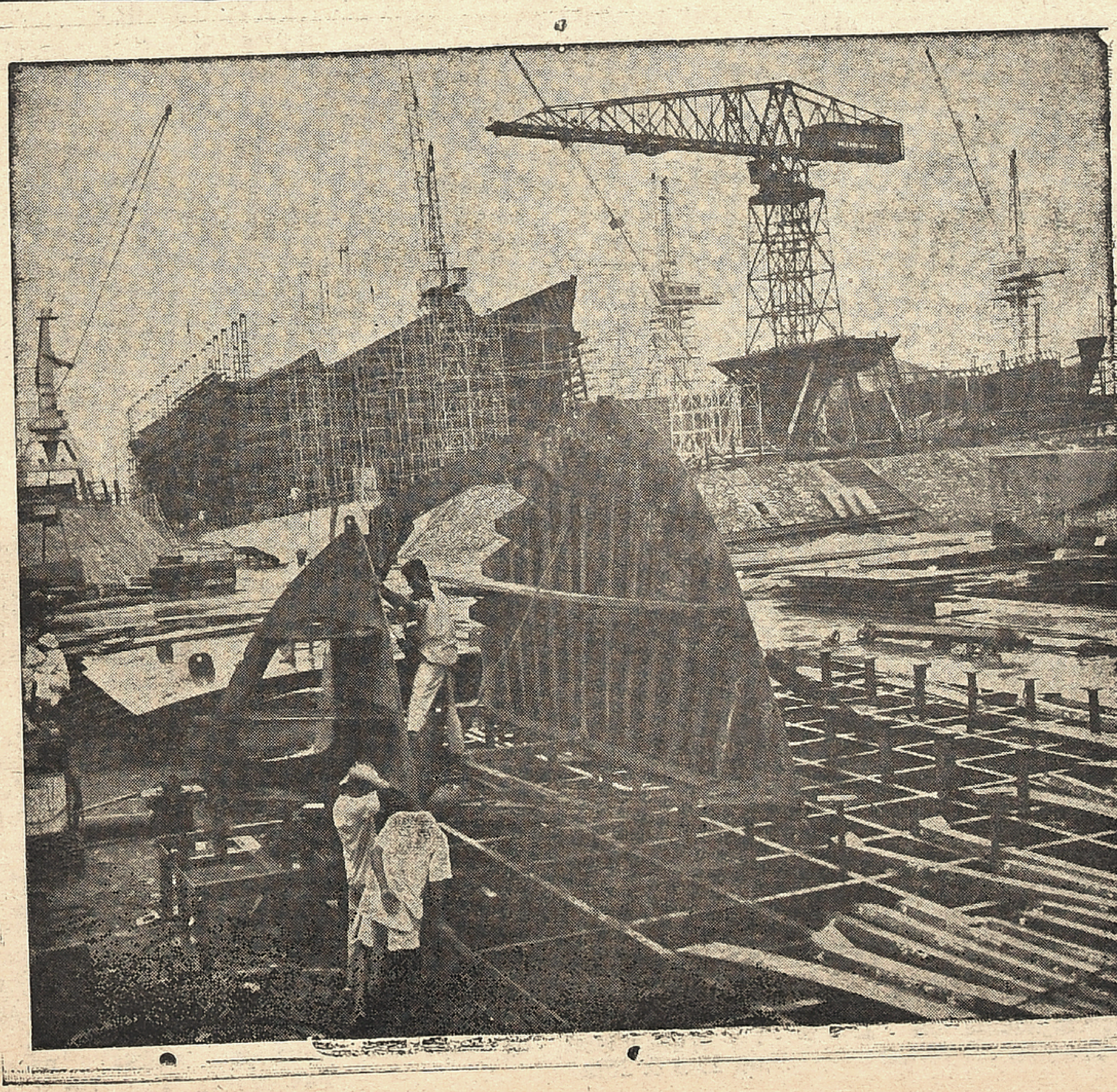
It has been the constant policy of the Central Government to maintain a strong and economically viable coastal shipping fleet capable of serving as a means of transport along the 500 km long coastline of India.

The present fleet engaged in coastal shipping consists of 80 vessels with an operative tonnage of 4 41 lakh GRT

The main commodities which keep on moving around the coast are coal and salt. The product carriers which operate mainly to the account of Indian Oil Company transport about 20 lakh tonnes of petroleum products every year.

The target of 6 lakh GRT fixed under the 5th Five Year Plan includes acquisition of cargo vessels for operating exclusively on the coast. These vessels will be deployed to move coal from Calcutta to the southern and western coast ports in order to meet the requirements of the railways, industries and thermal plants as also to carry salt back to Calcutta in the return voyage. Besides, they will also carry some items of general cargo. In addition, product carriers for transporting petroleum products from the refineries to the consuming centres and passenger ships for op rating in the Konkan region and between Mainland and Andaman, Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands are also included in this tonnage.

The shipping link between Mainland and Andaman and Nicobar islands is provided by the regular services run by the Shipping Corporation of India. At present, two passenger-cum-cargo vessels which carry about 50,000 passengers in a year and one vessel which transports timber are already in operation. The Shipping Corporation proposes to place another new timber carrier in the Mainland-Andaman sector. When this vessel is put in operation, a minimum of about 60,000 cu.m of timber is expected to be transported every year from the forests to the Mainland. Two passenger-cum-cargo vessels are similarly operating on the west coast to connect the Mainland with the Lakshadweep island. Although these services are not viable, they are being maintained in order to provide an incentive for developing the economy of the islands.



The Mogul Lines Limited—another public sector shipping company—is operating the Bombay-Goa passenger service on six days in a week on a no-profit-loss basis. This service benefits the people in the Konkan region who mostly belong to the weaker sections of the society. About two lakh passengers make use of this service during a working season between September to May.

The Government refixed the freight rates for the movement of coal and salt on the coast in July 1975 after taking into account the increase in operational cost. This has improved the economic viability of coastal dry cargo ships. The economic position of coastal operations is likely to improve further after the Haldia port is fully commissioned.

A system study was made by foreign consultants for determining the nature, type and quantum of facilities required for coastal shipping including the optimum size of ships. On the basis of the report of the consultants it has been decided that, to start with, two fully geared bulk carriers of 35,000 DWT each may be acquired. The Shipping Corporation of India has been asked to arrange procurement of the vessels.

The Merchant Shipping Act framed in 1958 reserves coastal shipping for Indian ships.

**For The Week 24th, April To 30th, April 1977**

### MESHA (ARIES)
Aswini Bharani
Krittika ¼

FAVOURABLE period continues. You should try to develop new contacts to expand your business activities. Financial position will be satisfactory. Speculative gains are also indicated. Family members will be cooperative. Property matters require attention. You should be prepared for important changes in a months time. Health will be well maintained. The efforts you are making during last six months to finalise important arrangement will materialise in the near future. Favourable days: 24th & 25th.

★

### VRISHABA (TAURUS)
Krittika ¾ Rohini
Mrigashirsha ½

MIXED results are indicated. You should be prepared for important changes in your office. Change of place is indicated for some. Financial position will be satisfactory. But avoid speculative investments. You can expect cooperation from your family members. Matters relating to brothers and sisters require attention. You may have to undertake short journeys frequently. Favourable days: 25th & 26th.

★

### MITHUNA (GEMINI)
Mrigashirsha ½ Arudra
Punarvasu ¾

FAVOURABLE period to implement your plans. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. Avoid friction with family members. Property matters could be finalised favourably. Health will be well maintained. Avoid long journeys unless necessary. You will be able to benefit through partnership arrangements. Favourable days: 27th & 28th.

### KATAKA (CANCER)
Punarvasu ¼ Pushya
Ashlesha

YOU should wait for some time to implement your plans. You will be able to solve your present problems by the end of this month. You can expect cooperation from your family members. Financial position will improve. Partnership matters could be finalised. Problems relating to property matters should be compromised to avoid legal complications. Be prepared for unexpected developments on 29th & 30th.

★

### SIMHA (LEO)
Maka Purva Palguni
Uttara Palguni ¼

YOU are still under evil planetary influence. You should wait for one more month to get some relief from the pressure of work and responsibility. Changes are indicated in your office. Avoid friction with superiors. Change of place is indicated for some. It is better to wait instead of taking hasty steps. Financial position will improve. You should be prepared for unexpected developments on 27th & 28th.

★

### KANYA (VIRGO)
Uttara Palguni ¾ Hastha
Chitra ½

FAVOURABLE period. You should be able to finalise some of the long standing matters. Business will improve. Financial position will be satisfactory. Speculative gains are also indicated. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children could be finalised. You may have to undertake a long journey shortly. If you have not changed the residence recently, you will be moving to some other place in the near future. You should be prepared for unexpected developments on 25th & 26th.

### THULA (LIBRA)
Chitra ½ Swathi
Visakha ¾

MIXED results are indicated. You should wait for some more time to implement your plans. Pressure of work and responsibility will increase. Property matters require attention. You should avoid legal complications. Also avoid friction with associates. Financial position will be satisfactory. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children could be finalised. Favourable days: 27th & 28th.

★

### VRISCHIKA (SCORPIO)
Vishakha ¼ Anuradha
Jyeshtha

FAVOURABLE period. Business will be improve. Promotional possibilities are bright. Change of place is indicated for some. Property matters could be finalsed favourably. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children could be finalised. Health requires attention. Avoid long journeys unless necessary. Financial position will improve. Favourable days: 29th & 30th.

★

### DHANUS (SAGITTARIUS)
Mola Purva Ashadha
Uttara Ashadha ¼

MIXED results are indicated. You will be able to solve some of your problems in a month's time. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments. Family mambers will be cooperative. Matters relating to children require attention. Partnership matters should be handled properly to avoid complications later. You may have to undertake short journeys frequently. Be prepared for unexpected developments on 25th & 26th.

**GLOSSARY**

| | |
|---|---|
| Arudra | —திருவாதிரை |
| Pushya | —பூசம் |
| Ashlesha | —ஆயில்யம் |
| Purva Phalguni | —பூரம் |
| Uttara Phalguni | —உத்திரம் |
| Anuradha | —அனுஷம் |
| Jyeshtha | —கேட்டை |
| Purva Ashada | —பூராடம் |
| Uttara Ashada | —உத்திராடம் |
| Shravana | —திருவோணம் |
| Dhanistha | —அவிட்டம் |
| Satha Bhishag | —சதயம் |
| Purva Bhadrapada | —பூரட்டாதி |
| Uttara Bhadrapada | —உத்திரட்டாதி |

### MAKARA (CAPRICORNUS)
Uttara Ashadha ¾
Shravana-Dhanistha ½

FAVOURABLE period continues. You should try to make best use of this opportunity to improve your prospects. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children could be finalised. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Health requires attention. Avoid journeys unless necessary. Be prepared for unexpected development on 27th & 28th.

★

### KUMBHA (AQUARIUS)
Dhanishta ½ Sathabhishag
Purva Badrapada ¾

FAVOURABLE period to implement your programme. Business will improve. Promotional possibilities are bright. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. You should be cautious in dealing with strangers. Avoid friction with family members. Property matters require attention. Short journeys are indicated. Favourable days: 25th & 26th.

★

### MEENA (PISCES)
Purva Badrapada
Uttara Badrapada Revati

FAVOURABLE period. You will be able to solve some of your problems in a month's time. Financial position will improve. Family members will be cooperative. You should be cautious in dealing with strangers. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Avoid friction with family members. Matters relating to children require attention. Avoid long journeys unless necessary. Favourable days: 27th & 28th.

*A KRIGHIZ FAIRY TALE*

# Mind. Happiness And Wealth

Once upon a time Wealth, Happiness and Mind began to argue who was strongest. Mind was the first to boast:

"I am the strongest. If a man has no mind, he will have neither wealth nor happiness!"

"If one is unhappy, neither mind nor wealth can help him," said Happiness.

"Stupid. I'm stronger than both of you," Wealth shouted. "Without wealth there can be no happiness and a poor person has no mind to speak of."

At that moment they saw a young peasant in a field. Wealth ran ahead of the others, took the peasant by the hand and said than done-the field was knee-deep with silver and gold instead of wheat.

Mind saw this and thought: "Aren't I stronger than wealth?" and snatched away the peasant's mind.

Mindless, the peasant went to the village bal and said: "Come and look stones, not wheat are growing in my field!"

The bal followed the peasant. When he saw gold and silver in the field he understood that the peasant was out his mind and said:

"If you give me this land I'll give you another piece of land that's just as big". The peasant gladly accepted the offer. The bal carried all the gold and silver to his tent.

When he saw that the peasant had lost both his mind wealth. Happiness decided to help him. A rich caravan came by. When the traders saw the peasant they said: "He looks like a just and kind man! Let's make him our chief and obey his orders".

They dressed the peasant in a fox-fur coat and a sable hat, gave him a speedy horse and left with him at the head of the caravan.

The caravan soon stopped at a village.

When darkness fell, the oldest trader went to the village bal's tent.

"Bal-ake," he said, our caravan-chief has no wife, I ask you to give him your older daughter's hand".

The bal was overjo ed and said:

"If your chief likes my daughter, I'll be happy to see them married. The bal ordered a wedding tent put up and his beautiful daughter brought there. He gave the bridegroom a worthy reception and led him to the tent. All village girls gathered around and stealthily peeked in to see the noble bridegroom.

The bridegroom looked important and carried himself proudly, but said nothing as if he were dumb. But since he had no mind, he did not know what to say, and simply stood there.

'Why does't he say something?' the girls whispered. "Perhaps he thinks the bal's daughter isn't good enough forhim?"

The rumours reached the bal's ears.

"Why doesn't he say something? Does he really want to make everybody laugh at me?" The bal was angry, but decided to wait till morning. By sunrise the whole village knew that the bridegroom had not said a single word.

"Shame upon my head, he has turned down my daughter!" roared the bal. He called his men together and decided to kill the bridegroom.

The same moment Wealth, Happines and Mind happened to go by the village, and heard that the bal was going to kill the peasant. Weatlh and Happiness pleaded with Mind:

"We admit you are the strongest. Give the pesant back his mind and save him".

Mind agreed and gave the peasant a mind that made him twice as clever as before. The peasant immediately looked around him. He understood that he was about to be killed. So he took off his hat, pulled at his beard and asked the bal if he could speak.

"Let him, let him. It's about time." shouted the people who had gathered for the execution.

The bal agreed.

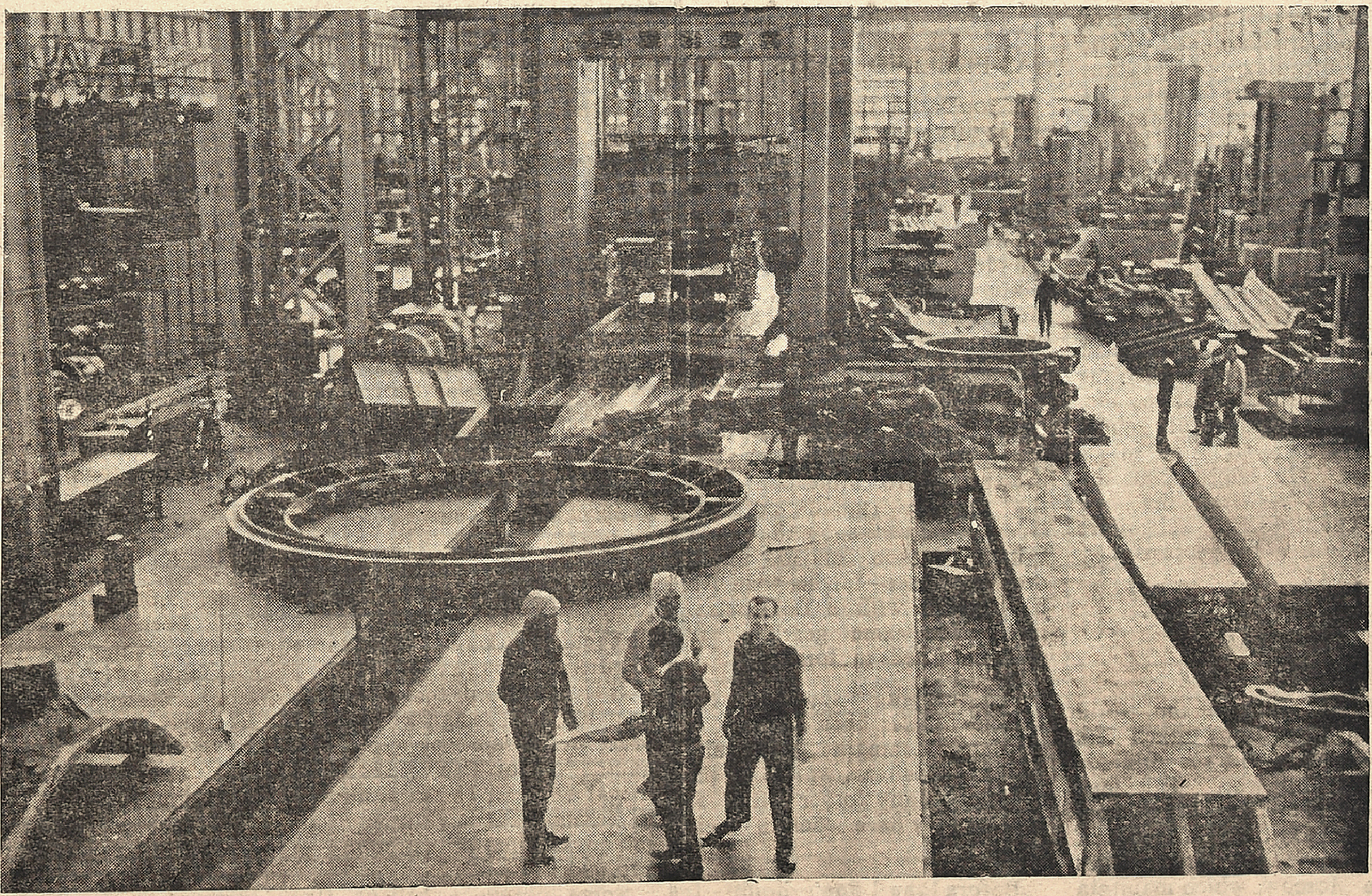
"When I was a small boy our village was raided by enemy and all our men fled", the peasant said. But one young woman from our village put on man's clothing, tucked her braids under the hat, mounted a horse and charged the foes. Alone she chased the enemy away and then went after our fleeing men to chide them. So since yesterday I have been sitting here wondering whether your dauther would be the same as the wamaa I told you about."

Upon hearing these words the bal was gladdened and ordered a huge wedding feast.

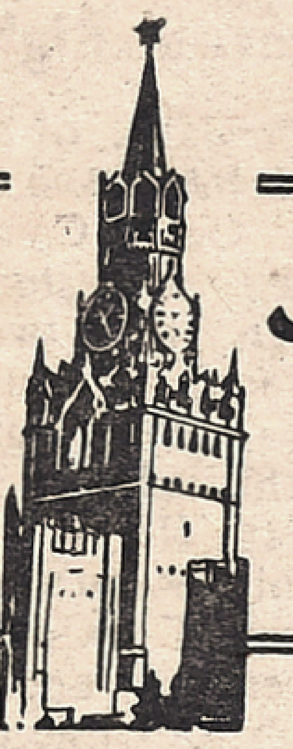
Next day the peasant took his wife, and riding at the head of the caravan, left for far-off lands to trade with other peoples. Ever since then our people have said: "If you have no mind of your own, you won't be weal thy or happy."

## Restored Right

The descendants of the Duke of Choiseul have won their suit against tha Opera Comique in Paris, aimed at restoring the family's right to a twelve-seat box in the theatre at every performance. The right was granted to the Duke of Choiseul by Napolean III in 1862. In 1911 the Third Republic reaffirmed the right. The Opera-Comique, however, later abolished it. Now, a Fifth Republic court has restored this right, extending it to all four heirs of the Duke. It is not known when they will make use of it because the Opera-Comique was closed indefinitely last year on account of financial difficulties.



"OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION WILL REMAIN," said Mr. A. B. Vajpayee, Janata leader and Minister of External Affairs. Picture shows a section of the Ranchi Steel Plant, one of the milestones of Indo-Soviet co-operation.



# Muscovite's Diary

Ivan Ivanov

### SOVIET AGRICULTURAL MINISTER ON MAJOR LINES OF INDO-SOVIET COOPERATION

In a commentary which was published in the press here just on the eve of the 30th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the USSR and India, the USSR Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr. B. Runov, has stated that increased cooperation between the two countries is expected during the current year, especially in the exchange of delegations. He says that ten Indian delegations will visit the USSR and eight Soviet delegations will visit India this year. Two major symposiums are also expected, one on the breeding of Zebu and buffalloes and the other on the selection of wheat, resistant to rust and smut. He also writes that a Soviet-Indian convention on the protection of migratory birds and their environment is also to be signed this year.

Mr. Runov, who had travelled extensively in India to study India's agricultural development, says that there are three main trends in Indo-Soviet cooperation in agriculture: (1) The study and concentration of genetic resources for the selection of farm crops; (2) the protection of farm crops from diseases and pests, through breeding of resistant varieties and (3) the crossing of Zebu and European cattle for breeding new strains.

Mr. Runov is happy to observe that in the major aspects of Indo-Soviet cooperation in agriculture earlier, such as in the development of better seeds, mechanisation of agriculture and the training of cadres for this process, in the development of new cash crops in India such as sunflower, beetroot, cotton, etc. and the development of animal husbandry there had been major successes. He hopes that the cooperation between the two major countries in agriculture will continue to be successful.

* * *

### WE CALL THEM "POBRATIMY"

If all the cities of the world unite, there would be much less room on our planet for discord, suspicion and war. This idea ran through the speeches of most participants in the Conference of Mayors of the 130 Soviet cities held in Moscow, which maintain close contacts with their 260 sister towns in 50 countries. (Readers will remember that Volgograd and Madras are Twin Sister Cities and regular contacts are being maintained between them).

The aim of the United Towns Movement is to promote peace and international cooperation. The movement organised in 1943 when, at the peak of World War II, broad-based committees to unite the city of Coventry in Britain and Stalingrad in the Soviet Union were set up. These two cities, situated far apart, were united by their common tragedy: both Coventry and Stalingard were razed to the ground by the Nazis.

The United Towns Organisation, which is to celebrate its 20th anniversary later this year, embraces about 1,400 cities. The organisation's contribution to the efforts to ensure peace, curb aggression, and promote social progress, is all that constitutes the letter and the spirit of of the Helsinki Agreements, had made it one of the most representative and authoritative international organisations.

The importance which the Soviet people attach to the movement is seen from the fact that they call United Towns by an old Slavic word "Pobratimy", which means "Sworn Brothers".

* * *

### GAS-FUELLED TAXIS

If you hail a taxi in Moscow and it turns out to be a Volga GAZ 24-07, you probably won't know it unless the driver tells you.

These taxis are fuelled by cylinders of a propanebutane mixture instead of petrol, which meant that the whole fuel system had to be redesigned.

A new reduction system with an evaporator designed at the Gorky Motor Works converts the mixture from liquid at a pressure of 16 atmospheres to the gas the engine requires. Operational tests show that one cylinder is good for 300 miles, even in winter—farther than can be covered with a full petrol tank. The same gearbox will soon be fitted in lorries.

Gas-charging stations for vehicles have been set up in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and Minsk. Gas taxis will be on the streets of many other cities as soon as they have chargin facilities.

Before long I don't doubt, it will be the petrol taxi that will be the exception on the streets of Soviet towns.

# STRONG NERVES

By STAS AFANASYEV

"Sit down, my boy! Take your choice and give me your marks book...There is fresh water in the picture and here's some valerian drops. And don't worry. Are you terribly worried?"

"Not at all."

"How odd. And do you remember which semester, which exam, which year and to whom you are answering?"

"I do. Winter, Static, Third Professor Sergeyev. May I begin?"

"Don't be in such a hurry. I cannot understand why you are so calm. I suppose you are armed with a full complement of cribs?"

"Do you wish me to take my jacket off?"

"No, no, don't brother. Is it possible you know all the answers?"

"How could you think that professor?"

"Well, don't be embarrassed, young man. Have you any idea what you're up against? Do you realize that I not only question on the basis of the subject you've drawn, but range over the whole course?"

"I'm ready".

"Haven't they told you that I'm a beast at exams?"

""They have, but I'm not afraid. I have strong nerves".

"Amazing! The first time. I've run into anything like this Well, if that's the case, I'll give you top marks without asking a single question on statics".

This, I did not expect. An average mark, no more. The chair protested under my weight.

"But your nerves, my friend, are not so good. More like a freshman's," the professor's voice cooed over me.

"Beast," I whispered, regaining consciousness.

# Political Asylum Requests on The Increase

Berlin :—Schonefeld airport in East Berlin is the first station for many asylum seekers from distant parts of the world. Only a few hours after landing at Schonefeld, the passengers arrive in West Berlin via the city transit system.

In the past few weeks there were at least 20 new arrivals a day who found their way to the West via this route and applied to the authorities for asylum Such applications, usually motivated by political persecution at home, are approved in about 40 per cent of cases.

Only one-third of asylum seekers receive financial assistance from the Berlin Senator for Labour and Social Affairs.

Last year there were about 3,800 persons seeking asylum in West Berlin. This figure is expected to rise to 9,000 in 1977. And the Senate's expenditure for assistance will in all probability increase from DM6 million this year.

The main difficulty arises in finding suitable quarters for the refugees. But the new arrivals from the far-flung corners of the world, ranging from Latin America to the Middle East, are no security risk since they chose to enter the country legally.

It is estimated that the well over 100,000 foreign workers in West Berlin are augmented by another ten or twelve thousand illegal workers. The total number of foreigners (they occupy one job out of nine) is estimated at 190,000.

Some observers believe that the growing number of asylum seekers is organised to some extent and that many of these people receive information concerning communications and transit routes that will get them to the West in the most efficient way possible and that there are private counsellors to guide them to the appropriate authority.

*—Egon Hollmann*

# New Glass From Old Shards

Recycling, in other words the production of raw materials from scrap, does not apply only to ferrous and nonferrous metals but also to glass which—so far at least—is still cheap and amply available.

The container glass industry in the Federal Republic of Germany began with the recycling of bottles, jars and broken glass in 1974. One year later, the industrial recycling of old glass reached the 200 000 tons in 1976.

This means that the amount of recycled glass almost matched the increase in the production of container glass which, in 1976, rose by 10 per cent to a total of 2.89 million tons.

Some 60 companies in the Federal Republic of Germany provide the glass industry with the necessary scrap for recycling. Some 3,000 special containers have been strategically placed throughout the country for the collection of throwaway glass scrap. But these containers not only play a role in recycling and the production of raw materials; they also help to keep our environment clean.

Industry provided some DM3.7 million in the past four years for planning, research and experiments in the development of new sorting installation which separates glass shards according to colour.

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# Why Did The South...

self in all his speeches did not, in the pre-election campaign on the same platform with Janata or separately, place his party's claims for the seats in Parliament but confined himself to the single issue that this election was for deciding dictatorship or democracy. In my opinion, this did not serve the Janata party or his own because the people in the country did not understand much about the gravity of this issue. In fact, they cared more for the ameliorative measures of the DMK then for its confrontation with the centre on State autonomy and not even the charges of corruption. The slum dwellers laughed it away as there was no party without corruption and the DMK at least introduced innumerable good measures. But why did they vote in greater numbers for the Congress-AIADMK alliance is an enigma and its true motivation can be gauged only by a large section of the voters. The fact appears to be largely true that many illiterate women who did not in the least know the dimension of the issues that had developed had cast their votes in favour of the "matinee idol" Mr. M. G. Ramachandran. As many all India leaders have declared with a large amount of substance in it, the rigour of the emergency clamped down by Mrs. Gandhi out of all needs, did not affect the common man in Tamilnadu as it was aimed against political opponents only. Further the people were enjoying the benefits of a good harvest and fairly stable prices and the issue in the election was not high prices and rationing, bad rice etc, as in previous elections. (Blunder)

The greatest blunder that both the DMK and Janata did was the inconceivable delay over the apportionment of seats (the stupid delay over one seat extra) and the selection of candidates. The DMK were apparently under a stupor caused by the corruption charges although they might have put a brave face over it. Mr. Karunanidhi took the voter too much for granted and the voters had their way, not as a reprisal but, as it seems, without much seriousness.

In the net result the AIADMK which cannot by any means be called a political party much different from DMK but for the personality factor involved and the capacity to curry favour with the centre, has emerged as a freak group with an ace of Mrs. Indira Gandhi leading to the success of her political alliance in Tamil Nadu. This was not certainly in anybody's political prophesy or wished for but it is a product of the weak party formulations in India, a deplorable feature which does not augur well for the development or success of Parliamentary democracy in a semi-federal set up in India. Political theorists and Parliamentary experts would deplore such developments.

### CONGRESS(O) IS RIGHT

In the midst of this milieu, a factor glibly pointed out as Janata alliance's flop in Tamil Nadu, is the alliance of the Old Congress leader Mr. Ramachandran with DMK. A moment's reflection even by a tyro in politics will reveal the absurdity of this charge. Which is the other party with whom the Old Congress could join forces in Tamil Nadu? Let any one give an answer. And then there was no such alliance in other southern states and yet the combination failed. Why? The only other party is the CPI, which is described by some writers as the most unprincipled Communist Party anywhere in the world. This party had already been in close and intimate alliance with Mrs Gandhi's party. So to attribute the damp squib to the Congress-O-DMK alliance is incorrect. Even if Mr. Kamaraj were alive, if he found merger with Congress (new) impossible he would have joined forces with DMK which, as a party, (individuals apart) is not any more dishonourable than many other Congress or Congress supported parties in the north.

Finally, it must be viewed wity great concern that the press in the south, in the name of emergency, did not inform and educate the masses on the momentous issues involved in this election. Its subservience to authority and press censorship and its own commercial interests have to some extent let down public interests. The language press Concerned itself with partisanship over personalities.

It would be a bad day for democracy in India if such freak results repeat themselves in the future and it behoves the electorate to beware and forewarned.

*—Indian Review.*

## Will Irony Help ?

Chio State Representative John Galbraith has introduced a bill to "abolish" January and February and lengthen June, July and August. To what purpose? To save fuel. "This bill," he has reportedly said, "makes as much sense as many others relating to the energy crisis." Proposing a number of other things that are no less original, namely cancellation of the coldest days in the year and increase in the number of warm days, Mr. Galbraith thus explained these extravagant suggestions: "I am trying to light a fire under the forces that control the legislature in hopes they can do something besides hand-wringing."

## Unwanted

Air Rouergue, the French airline, ought to be proud of Maguy Lecocq, for there are not too many female chief pilots in the country. Her employers, however, have fired her, and not for any business considerations either. The company reportedly does not wish to conclude a collective agreement with its employees. And Maguy Lecocq is an active member of the flyers' union, which is insisting on its conclusion.

## Counterfeit

From 1972 to 1975 the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) uncovered 231 splendidly equipped enterprises counterfeiting coins and banknotes. Last year some 3,300 million fake dollars were found and taken out of circulation in the United States alone. These figures were cited at the Interpol-sponsored fourth international conference on the counterfeiting problem. It is feared that if the counterfeiters keep going at thu same pace, there will be more bogus money than genuine in circulation.

## Still Waiting For Awards

About a year and a half ago the authorities of Lower Saxony (West Germany) decided to decorate those who had distinguished themselves in helping to put out the fires raging over 8,000 hectares of forests. However, because of red-tapism, these braves still have not received their medals, the Stern magazine writes. Will they get them before August? For August, the magazine reminds its readers, is the season of forest fires.

## Jet Ambulance

Equipped with virtually everything needed in an intensive care unit the first jet aircraft of the German Flying Ambulance Service has provided last-minute aid to many vacationers who had fallen ill. The service was founded in 1975 by Dr. Andreas Kunicki of Dusseldorf, Federal Republic of Germany. The surgeon with a commercial flying licence was prompted to institute this service because many Germans who fall ill while vacationing abroad frequently have to wait too long for adequate medical attention. In the flying ambulance they receive this attention while en route to hospital. The two-engined Lear Jet 24 has a crew of two pilots, one or two doctors and a medical attendant. It can be ready for take-off within 30 minutes and has flown 150 missions to date.

## Spacelady In Waiting

Barbara Zuck, 30, from Munich stands a good chance of becoming the first European woman in space. Frau Zuck, who works as a scientific assistant in a research laboratory, is a licensed pilot, unmarried, athletic and an applicant for a position in the European "Spacelab". But she is still only one of 18 women from the Federal Republic of Germany, aged between 18 and 36, who have been short-listed for the job and are now undergoing various tests before being groomed for their 7 day mission at an altitude of 400 kilometers. The Bonn Government is bearing 53 per cent of the "Spacelab", which is financed jointly by ten European countries and for which the United States will provide the carrier rocket "Spaceshuttle", writs the first woman aboard "Spacelab" is to be launched in 1981.

## Anti-Burglary Tips

The U.S. News and World Report has published advice from Pinkerton's security agency on guarding one's home while one is away on a winter vacation. The agency suggests, for instance, that you ask a friend to walk from the street to your door several times a week but only after a snowfall) and have a neighbour park his car in your driveway and put a carbage can in front of your house on collection days. The advice naturally does not affect those who do not own a house.

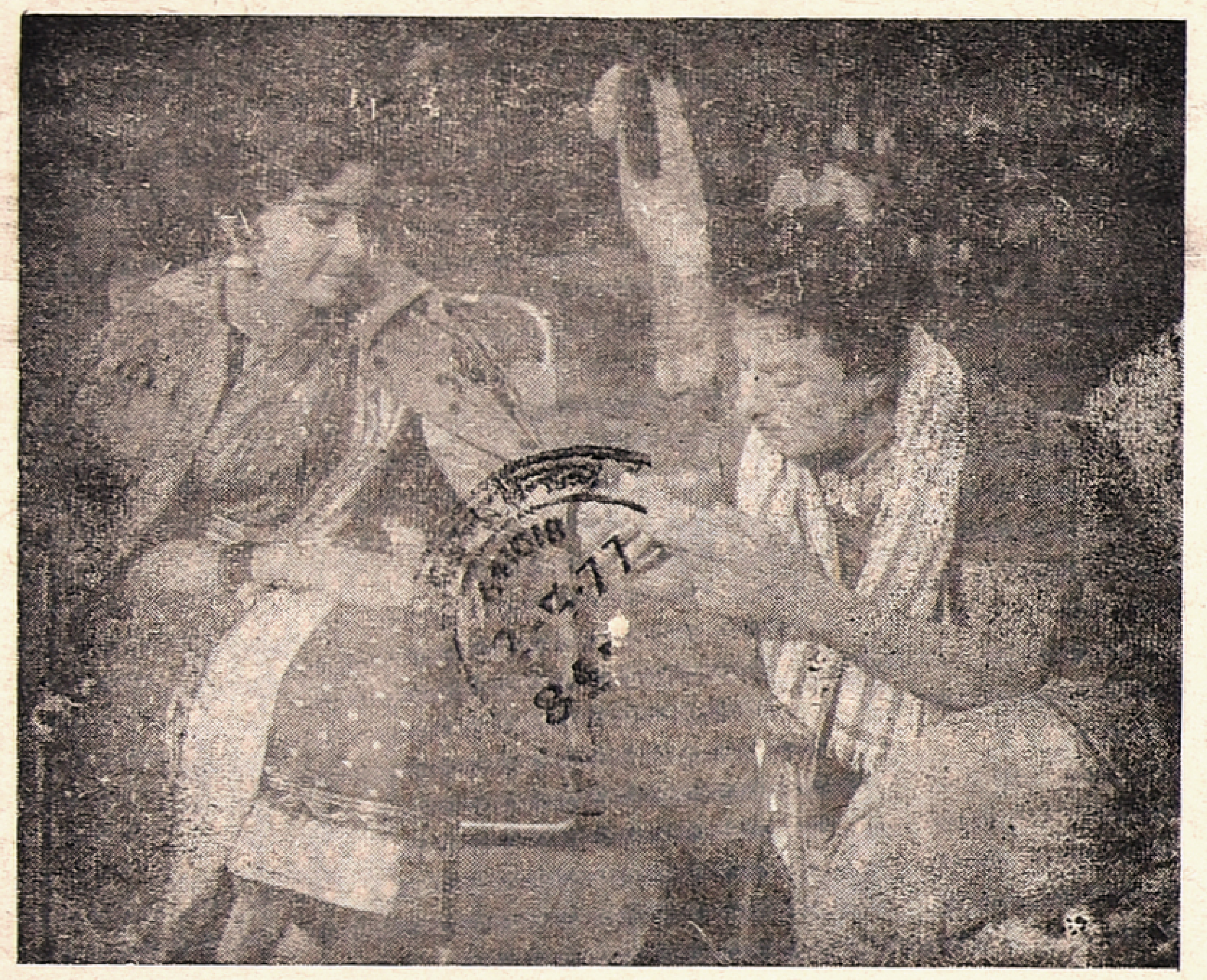
## Offering Their Services

The West German Suddeutsche Zeitung recently carried the following advertisement: "You have no heirs? You are grieved that you do not know who will continue your life's work? We are a pleasant family aged 48, 38, ten and eight, and despite the hard work we have put in, we have unfortunately not achieved desired material well-being. We are prepared to continue your life's work the way you want it to be done."

## Income & Expenditure

The local government of Cannock Chase (England) has announced that its income from dog licences last year was £2,600. True, it spent £2,647 to send reminders that licences were due for renewal.

# FILM NEWS IN PICTURES



Expert palmist ? M.G.R. studying the hand of Jayalalitha.

Jayachitra dreaming about her fiance in "ALUKKORU AASAI".

★ ★ ★

Srividya and Sukumaran in their latest Malayalam Film.

Jayalalitha seems to be accusing someone in G. Subramania Reddiar's Navaneetha Pictures' "UNNAI CHUTRIA ULAGAM".

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